limits to 4000 Kgs in the drying building; provision of continuous water supply to the paste drying building; proper monitoring of duration of drying and strengthening of traverses.

Outcome of US Defence Secretary's visit to India

635. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the recent visit of US Defence Secretary to India; and

(b) the details of the agreements, if any signed during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defence visited India during November 3-4, of 2001. However, during this visit, no Agreement on Defence matters was signed between the two countries. This visit resulted in greater military to military cooperation between India and the US.

Investigation into fire accident in Bikaner Cantonment

†636. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and make of arms destroyed in fire took place in Bikaner Cantonment and the details of production cost thereof alongwith the number of soldiers killed and injured therein;

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry into this incident; if so, the outcome thereof and the details of action taken by Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) An Army convoy of mainly civilian trucks carrying ammunition stationed near the Military Station, Bikaner caught fire on 11th January, 2002 at 1500 hrs. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the fire and to ascertain the details of the loss dur to the outbreak of this fire. From the preliminary investigation it has been ascertained that 17 Army vehicles and 161 Civil Transport vehicles, army assets including ammunition, a unit run canteen, officers Mess, and a STD Booth have been destroyed/damaged. No soldier has been killed or suffered injury in the incident. Exact details of the losses will be known on the finalization of the report of the Court of Inquiry.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.